

THE ARMENIAN GENOCIDE

HON. JERRY F. COSTELLO

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 29, 1997

Mr. COSTELLO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 82d anniversary of the Armenian genocide. On April 24, 1915, the people of Armenia were subjected to long-term, organized deprivation and relocation. Eighty-two years later, we mark this date to remember the beginning of this systematic elimination of Armenian civilians, which lasted for over 7 years. By 1923, 1.5 million Armenians had been massacred and 500,000 more deported.

Many Armenian-Americans reside in my congressional district, and each year they mark this date with solemn commemoration. It is a day to reflect on the loss of property, freedom and dignity of those Armenians who were deported or killed under the Ottoman empire. We honor their memory and vow that such deprivation will never happen again.

Mr. Speaker, we also mark this date to celebrate the contributions of millions of Armenians and the Armenian-Americans since that awful time. As we continue to strengthen our bonds with the Armenian people, we must continue to be vigilant about remaining a strong friend of Armenian democracy through United States foreign policy. The Clinton administration's recent decision to waive the Humanitarian Aid Corridor Act does not bode well for long-term stabilization in this region. It is important for those of us in the Congress to continue to speak out in favor of Armenian human rights and free trade.

I urge my colleagues to join me in commemorating this solemn anniversary.

TRIBUTE TO MAYOR DOUGLAS H.
PALMER

HON. BILL PASCRELL, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 29, 1997

Mr. PASCRELL. Mr. Speaker, I would like to bring to your attention Hon. Douglas H. Palmer, who on July 1, 1990, became the first African-American mayor of the city of Trenton, NJ.

Mayor Palmer was born on October 19, 1951, and was raised in his family home on Edgewood Avenue in Trenton. He attended the public schools of Trenton during his formative years and graduated from Bordentown Military Institute. Bordentown, NJ. Mayor Palmer then went on to graduate from Hampton University in Hampton, VA, where he received a bachelor of science degree in business management in 1973. While in college, he played football and baseball and was named to the all-conference baseball team in 1970, 1971, and 1972.

Since becoming mayor of Trenton, Mayor Palmer has made tremendous strides in rebuilding his beloved hometown, including implementing changes and improvements in every area of city government. He has orchestrated plans that have increased affordable housing, expanded recreational programs, improved health care—especially for the chil-

dren, the elderly, and the poor—and created numerous economic development projects.

Mayor Palmer has also demonstrated leadership in the area of health care, including securing grant funding and luring the State's top medical school, the University of Medicine and Dentistry, NJ, to Trenton in order to start the State's first comprehensive drug treatment, research, and educational facility. He has also established Trenton Loves Children [TLC], the city's first comprehensive program for inner-city children that ensures all preschoolers will receive free immunization against childhood diseases.

Also Mayor Palmer has worked to bring the Family Development Program [FDP] to Trenton. This welfare program involves both the business and educational communities and seeks to provide complete individual job training, education, and placement assistance for welfare recipients. In its first year of operation, FDP has been extremely successful and is considered a model welfare reform initiative for the Nation.

Mayor Palmer's most prized accomplishment, however, must be making Trenton home to the country's first federally funded Weed and Seed antidrug program. Weed and Seed helps rebuild inner-city communities by weeding out drugs and other unlawful elements of crime-ridden areas and seeding in positive aspects of community life such as after-school safe haven sites for neighborhood children. The program has been called a model for the country and has attracted visits by such dignitaries as former Vice President Dan Quayle and former U.S. Attorney General William Barr.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you join me, our colleagues, Mayor Palmer's family and friends, and the city of Trenton in recognizing the outstanding and invaluable service to the community of Mayor Douglas H. Palmer.

FAMILY SERVICES IMPROVEMENT
ACT OF 1997

HON. STENY H. HOYER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 29, 1997

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, as a Member of the Appropriations Committee, I am particularly concerned that our tax dollars be spent efficiently and effectively. Congress has created hundreds of programs that help communities and families deal with numerous issues related to joblessness, homelessness, poor health, and education. We created each of these programs with its own rules and regulations to deal with specific problems. In some areas where local needs do not perfectly fit the problems covered by these programs, services for children and families are vastly inadequate. In other areas, services overlap and duplicate each other. Multiple programs may point multiple case workers toward a single family, but each individual case worker only handles one aspect of that family's needs. I believe the time is long overdue for Congress to deal with this problem. We must coordinate our categorical programs to provide more effective and efficient help to children and families.

Imagine a single mom who is trying to get off welfare. She gets up in the morning and

helps her two children, ages 4 and 7, get ready for school. Together, they walk down the street to the bus stop. All three of them get on the bus together and go to school. Mom drops the 4-year-old off at Head Start, takes the 7-year-old to second grade, and goes down the hall to her own computer literacy and graduate equivalency degree classes.

When the family needs immunizations or health screenings, they can go to the school-based clinic. There is also a social services office at the school. The social services coordinator can help the family find housing, food, and health care. There is also a job placement coordinator down the hall to help mom find a job when she finishes her classes.

At the end of the day, the family goes home from school together. Mom cooks a meal she learned about in her nutrition course taught by the school nurse. She gives her children jobs in the kitchen recommended by the parent education coordinator.

The kinds like going to school. They know it's important, because mom goes to school, too. Mom talks to their teachers every day and knows if there is a problem in the classroom. If one of the kids is sick, mom is at school to take care of them. Instead of spending her day traveling from school to GED classes to computer training to social service office after social service office, mom can focus on her most important tasks: caring for her children and learning marketable skills so she can find a job and support her family.

Unfortunately, this model of coordinated, one-stop programs to help children and families move off of government assistance is rare. Last fall, I pretended that I was a welfare parent for a day. I needed help with child support enforcement, housing, school registration, child care, and heating my home through the winter. Even though caseworkers expedited my applications, I spent more than 2 hours driving across southern Maryland collecting several hundred pages of application forms.

Our service system is too disconnected. There are literally scores of different programs in separate parts of each community. Caseworkers spend far too much time dealing with redtape and paperwork, multiple eligibility criteria, application processes, and service requirements. These workers may not know about each other or talk to each other, even when they are helping the same families.

We have asked families to get back on their feet so they can take care of themselves and their children but our maze of Federal rules, regulations, and systems makes it more difficult for community programs to assist families in doing this. We must help these families help themselves by reinventing a system of coordinated, one-stop programs.

This is why I am reintroducing the Family Services Improvement Act. The bill takes important steps to correct these problems. It seeks to eliminate Federal redtape and unnecessary regulation. It will give local programs the flexibility they need to address local problems. It will create incentives for program coordination which will serve children and families better while making more efficient use of our resources. It will shift Federal attention to outcomes so we can make sure that we are getting real results for our taxpayer dollar. Our taxpayers, and our children, deserve nothing less.